

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 EA-11 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 021500Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5412

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, MT, GR

SUBJ: LOCAL NEWSPAPER SUGGESTS BOYCOTT OF GREEK SHIPPING

1. MALTA NEWS (GENERAL WORKERS UNION) CARRIED ARTICLE
APRIL 2 ATTACKING GREEK REGIME AND SUGGESTING THAT MALTA
DOCKWORKERS FOLLOW AUSTRALIAN EXAMPLE AND BOYCOTT GREEK SHIPPING.

2. ARTICLE BEGINS ASSERTING THAT GREEK SHIPPING IS SMALL
PERCENTAGE OF SHIPS ENTERING GRAND HARBOR. AUTHOR CLAIMS
AVERAGE OF ONE SHIP PER WEEK IS GREEK GOING TO OR FROM GREECE,
TOTALING 2.2 PERCENT OF SHIPS IN MALTA.

3. BULK OF ARTICLE CONSISTS OF HALF PAGE OF GREEK HISTORY
BEGINNING WITH 1967 COUP. PAPADOPOULOS IS IDENTIFIED AS
HAVING BEEN LIAISON AGENT BETWEEN FYP AND CIA, AND "HAD
BEEN GIVEN EXPERT TRAINING IN AMERICA IN CONSPIRATORIAL
TECHNIQUES." PRIME MINISTER ANDROUTSOPOULOS IS SAID TO HAVE
SPENT MANY YEARS IN AMERICA, AND "NO ONE HAS ANY DOUBTS
AS TO HIS LINK WITH THE CIA". ARTICLE COMMENTS ON US
NAVY HOME PORTING ACTIVITY AND US AID. EVENTS OF
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NOVEMBER 1973 SAID TO HAVE RESULTED IN MASSACRE WITH

BETWEEN 400 AND 500 DEMONSTRATORS KILLED BY TROOPS AND POLICE.

4. ARTICLE ENDS WITH ASSERTION THAT BOYCOTTS OF GREEK SHIPPING ARE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE AND HAVE ALREADY PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE. MALTESE DOCKWORKERS WOULD SHOW SOLIDARITY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THEIR GREEK BROTHERS, AND WOULD ADVANCE CAUSE OF HUMANITY AND FREEDOM IF THEY WERE TO EMULATE AUSTRALIAN DOCKERS.

5. COMMENT: WRITER MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN LEAD IN RECENT STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF IN PARLIAMENTARY WHEN HE ATTRIBUTED MALTESE ABSENCE FROM MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES IN ATHENS IN PART TO NATURE OF GREEK REGIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, WRITER'S ASSERTION AS TO INSIGNIFICANCE OF GREEK SHIPPING TO MALTA APPEARS TO MISS AT LEAST ONE IMPORTANT POINT. ACCORDING TO FIGURES ASSEMBLED BY DATT, OF 162 SHIPS ENTERING MALTA DRYDOCKS FOR REPAIRS IN FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1973, 25 (15.4 PERCENT) WERE GREEK FLAG. LOSS OF THIS BUSINESS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT BLOW TO DRYDOCKS.GETZ

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